

REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-23 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Miur et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0192090 and hereinafter "D1") in view of Uchiyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,527 hereinafter "D2"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Features and Advantageous Effect(s) of the Present Invention:

The present invention is characterized in that a transparent liquid crystal display panel is intended to display an image for effect while transparently displaying symbols of a variable display device.

In addition, the light guide plate 39g has the following features.

That is, this plate is made up of a light transparent panel 39d, the light guiding plate 2-4 forming an openings 5b, 6b, 7b in areas in which the symbols on the variable display device 2-4 are displayed through the transparent liquid crystal display panel 2-4 so as to decrease obstacles between the transparent liquid crystal display panel 39d and the variable display device 2-4 in order to ensure visibility of the symbols variably displayed on the variable display device; and

a lens cut for guiding the light emitted from a light source 40a which is provided lateral of the light guiding plate 39g to a rear side of the transparent

display panel 39d is formed at a portion other than the opening of the light guide (see amendment claim 12, paragraph [0030]).

In this manner, the present invention allows the openings to be formed on the light guide plate which is mandatory as backlight of the liquid display in order to enhance visibility of the symbols of the variable display device while displaying the image for effect to the liquid crystal display.

The visibility of the symbols is enhanced by the openings of this light guide plate, whereas it is considered that a function of illuminating the liquid crystal display is lowered at the openings of the light guiding plate.

Therefore, the present invention allows the lens cut to be formed at a portion other than the openings of the light guiding plate so that the entire liquid crystal display is illuminated. This lens cut of the light guiding plate serves to diffuse the light emitted from the light source provided lateral of the light guiding plate to the entire liquid crystal display; and therefore, even if the light guiding plate forms openings in order to enhance the visibility of symbols, light is allowed to be emitted to the entire liquid crystal display.

Cited References:

Cited reference D1 (US2005/192090A) discloses arranging, in sequential order, reels 16; a monitor housing 60 having an opening formed therein; a liquid crystal shutter 76 for variably displaying a transparent state/opaque state of a transparent display zone 78 of symbols; a light transmission panel 84 as backlight; and an LCD monitor 68.

As stated by the Examiner in the Official Notice of Rejection, D1 also discloses forming an opening in the monitor housing 60 and adjusting the transparent state of the transparent display zone 78 of the liquid crystal shutter 76 and the luminescence intensity of the panel 84 to enhance the visibility of symbols (see paragraphs [0014] - [0017]) .

Meanwhile, cited reference D2 is related to a gaming machine for displaying a virtual image for an image of the image displaying device, which

superimposes and displays the aforementioned virtual image on the symbols of the reel. Thus, D2 does not disclose any characteristics of the display device according to the present invention.

Applicants' Position:

An opening 64 which is capable of visually recognizing symbols is provided in the monitor housing 60 of D1, whereas this monitor housing 60 is different from a light guiding plate having a lens cut for guiding the light emitted from a light source to the liquid crystal display, according to the present invention.

DI discloses the liquid crystal shutter 76 for variably displaying the symbols through the opening of the monitor housing in an electrically transparent state or in opaque state, whereas this shutter is essentially different from the openings of the light guiding plate or lens cut like those of the present invention.

The light transmission panel 84 is a portion corresponding to the light guiding plate of the present invention, whereas the opening for visually recognizing symbols and the lens cut are not provided on this panel 84 unlike the light guiding plate of the present invention.

Further, in DI, three panels are provided between the reel 16 and the LCD monitor 68. Two of them are a panel 84 and a liquid crystal shutter panel 76. On which no opening are formed, respectively, and one of them is a monitor on which an opening is formed. Furthermore, in D1, the opening is formed in the monitor housing 60, since the panel 84, the shutter 76, and the two panels cause the lowering of the visibility of symbols. Moreover, in D1, the monitor housing 60 having the opening and two light transmission panel 84 for guiding light to the monitor are allowed to have their own functions in order to ensure the visibility of symbols.

However, the present invention is directed to the art of; eliminating obstacles of interfering transmission of light between the liquid crystal display and the reels; and providing an opening for visually recognizing symbols on the light guiding plate of one panel, thereby illuminating the entire liquid crystal panel.

As described above, the present invention is characterized by, with focusing attention on a light guiding plate constituting backlight of the liquid crystal display, providing openings for visually recognizing symbols on the light guiding plate, and providing a lens cut for diffusing light at a portion other than the light guiding plate in order to compensate for the illumination on the spot of the opening.

Therefore, the art of the present invention is completely distinct from that of D1 in technical idea. As described previously, technical distinctiveness between the present invention and D1 is clear, and D1 fails to include disclosure of teaching, suggesting, or motivating the above-described technical features and effects of the present invention. As a consequence, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection is overcome by asserting the above descriptive matters as to the advantage of the present invention.

Claim Amendments

Claim 20 is amended as indicated above and the amended matters recited in the claim are supported by paragraphs [0030], [0052], and [0056] of the specification.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 20 and include all of the features of claim 20. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 20 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicant hereby reserves the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better

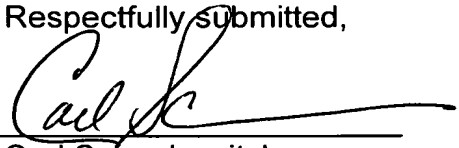
condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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